

I Claim:

1. A method for preparing warranty claims, comprising:

5 compiling a computer accessible database, said database listing all vehicles on which warranty claims could be prepared for a user, listing all parts for each vehicle so listed, listing the original equipment manufacturer's standard repair time allowed for repair for each such part, listing the proper failure and cause codes required by the original equipment manufacturer for each such part, and containing the original equipment manufacturer's standard form for a warranty claim; and

15 providing a computer program for accessing and processing information from the aforesaid database, the program providing a listing of vehicle parts for a particular vehicle listed in the database when the user indicates a particular vehicle in the database, providing the original equipment manufacturer's standard repair time allowed for repair when the user indicates a particular part, providing the original equipment manufacturer's proper failure and cause codes when the user indicates a particular part, and preparing a

25 warranty claim on the original equipment manufacturer's standard form for a warranty claim based on the aforesaid information.

2. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 1, wherein the vehicles are indexed in the database using some portion of each vehicle's official vehicle identification number such that the user indicates a particular vehicle by said portion.

30

3. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 1, wherein the vehicles are indexed in the database using a vehicle identification number assigned by the user such that the user indicates a particular vehicle by said number.

4. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 1, wherein vehicle parts for each vehicle are indexed in the database by vehicle systems, the program provides a listing of such systems when the user indicates a particular vehicle, and the program provides a listing of parts in a vehicle system when the user designates a particular vehicle system.

5. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 1, wherein the computer program further prepares a work summary based on the aforesaid information.

6. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 1, wherein the program can save the warranty claim and the information used in developing the warranty claim in a computer file for future access, research and tracking.

7. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 1, wherein said database further includes a listing of bills of materials for the vehicles and a listing of the parts set forth in each of said bills of materials for the vehicles, and said program provides a listing of bills of material for a vehicle when the user indicates that vehicle, provides parts for a particular bill of materials when the user indicates that bill of materials, provides the original equipment manufacturer's standard repair time allowed for repair when the user indicates a particular part, provides the original equipment manufacturer's proper failure and cause codes when the user indicates a particular part, and can prepare a warranty claim on the original equipment manufacturer's standard form for a warranty claim based on the aforesaid information.

8. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 1, wherein said database further includes supplier numbers for parts, and said program can operate fully using supplier numbers as well as original equipment manufacturer's numbers.

9. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 1, wherein a single code number is used in the database to denote each part and the original equipment manufacturer's standard repair time for that part, and is used by the computer program to link these to the proper failure and cause codes required by the original equipment manufacturer for the part, and the original equipment manufacturer's standard form for a warranty claim for that part.

10. A method for preparing warranty claims, comprising:

compiling a computer accessible database, said
database listing all vehicles on which warranty
claims could be prepared for a user, listing all
vehicle systems for each vehicle so listed, listing all
5 parts for each vehicle system so listed, listing the
original equipment manufacturer's standard repair
time allowed for repair for each such part, listing
the proper failure and cause codes required by the
original equipment manufacturer for each such part,
10 and containing the original equipment
manufacturer's standard form for a warranty claim;
and

providing a computer program for accessing and
processing information from the aforesaid
15 database, the program providing a listing of vehicle
systems for a particular vehicle listed in the
database when the user indicates a particular
vehicle in the database, providing a listing of
vehicle parts in that system when the user
20 indicates a particular system, providing the original
equipment manufacturer's standard repair time
allowed for repair when the user indicates a
particular part, providing the original equipment
manufacturer's proper failure and cause codes
25 when the user indicates a particular part, preparing
a work summary based on the aforesaid
information, and preparing a warranty claim on the
original equipment manufacturer's standard form
for a warranty claim based on the aforesaid
30 information.

11. A method for preparing warranty claims as set
forth in claim 10, wherein the vehicles are indexed in the
database using some portion of each vehicle's official vehicle
identification number such that the user indicates a particular
35 vehicle by said portion.

12. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 10, wherein the vehicles are indexed in the database using a vehicle identification number assigned by the user such that the user indicates a particular vehicle by said number.

13. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 10, wherein the program can save the warranty claim and the information used in developing the warranty claim in a computer file for future access and research.

14. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 10, wherein said database further includes a listing of bills of materials for the vehicles and a listing of the parts set forth in each of said bills of materials for the vehicles, and said program provides a listing of bills of material for a vehicle when the user indicates that vehicle, provides parts for a particular bill of materials when the user indicates that bill of materials, provides the original equipment manufacturer's standard repair time allowed for repair when the user indicates a particular part, provides the original equipment manufacturer's proper failure and cause codes when the user indicates a particular part, and can prepare a warranty claim on the original equipment manufacturer's standard form for a warranty claim based on the aforesaid information.

15. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 10, wherein said database further includes supplier numbers for parts, and said program can operate fully using supplier numbers as well as original equipment manufacturer's numbers.

16. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 10, wherein a single code number is used in the database to denote each part and the original equipment manufacturer's standard repair time for that part, and is used
5 by the computer program to link these to the vehicle system for the part, the proper failure and cause codes required by the original equipment manufacturer for the part, and the original equipment manufacturer's standard form for a warranty claim for that part.

10 17. A method for preparing warranty claims, comprising:

compiling a computer accessible database, said
database listing all vehicles on which warranty
claims could be prepared for a user, listing all
15 vehicle systems for each vehicle so listed, listing all parts for each vehicle system so listed, listing the original equipment manufacturer's standard repair time allowed for repair for each such part, listing the proper failure and cause codes required by the
20 original equipment manufacturer for each such part, containing the original equipment manufacturer's standard form for a warranty claim, listing all bills of materials for the vehicles, and listing all parts set forth in each of said bills of materials for the
25 vehicles; and

providing a computer program for accessing and processing information from the aforesaid database, the program providing a listing of vehicle systems for a particular vehicle listed in the database when the user indicates a particular vehicle in the database, providing a listing of vehicle parts in that system when the user indicates a particular system, providing a listing of bills of material for a vehicle when the user indicates that vehicle, providing a listing of parts for a particular bill of materials when the user indicates that bill of materials, providing the original equipment manufacturer's standard repair time allowed for repair when the user indicates a particular part, providing the original equipment manufacturer's proper failure and cause codes when the user indicates a particular part, preparing a work summary based on the aforesaid information, and preparing a warranty claim on the original equipment manufacturer's standard form for a warranty claim based on the aforesaid information.

18. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 17, wherein the vehicles are indexed in the database using some portion of each vehicle's official vehicle identification number such that the user indicates a particular vehicle by said portion.

19. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 17, wherein the vehicles are indexed in the database using a vehicle identification number assigned by the user such that the user indicates a particular vehicle by said number.

20. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 17, wherein the program can save the warranty claim and the information used in developing the warranty claim in a computer file for future access and research.

5 21. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 17, wherein said database further includes supplier numbers for parts, and said program can operate fully using supplier numbers as well as original equipment manufacturer's numbers.

10 22. A method for preparing warranty claims as set forth in claim 17, wherein a single code number is used in the database to denote each part and the original equipment manufacturer's standard repair time for that part, and is used
15 by the computer program to link these to the vehicle system for the part, the proper failure and cause codes required by the original equipment manufacturer for the part, the original equipment manufacturer's standard form for a warranty claim for that part, and bills of material for the vehicle containing that part.